

# CHARLESTON

## FIRE DEPARTMENT



### Fire Extinguished by Sprinkler System at Concord Condominiums

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Charleston, SC (May 9, 2014): At approximately 10:06 PM on 5/8/2014 emergency personnel from the City of Charleston and Saint Andrews Fire Departments, Charleston Police Department, and Charleston County EMS responded to a reported structure fire at 45 Sycamore Ave, Concord Condominiums. Fire personnel arrived to discover a kitchen fire that had been extinguished by the fire sprinkler system. Firefighters quickly surveyed the area to ensure the fire had been fully extinguished and then shut down the water to the sprinkler system to reduce further damage.

Members of the Fire Marshal Division responded to investigate the incident and determined that unattended cooking, involving a pot of grease on the stove, contributed to the cause of the fire. The tenant was cooking and left the kitchen area for a short period of time. A fire ensued and activated the smoke alarm system, causing the tenant to return to the kitchen to find a fire on the stove top as the sprinkler system activated and controlled the incident.

“Unattended cooking remains one of the leading causes of fire in the home”, said Fire Marshal Mike Julazadeh. “The combination of a working smoke alarm and a fire sprinkler system proved to be an invaluable tool to ensure life safety. Without these two systems working together, the property would have sustained additional damage and more tenants would have been displaced.”

The occupant suffered a small burn to one hand while trying to remove a cooking pot from the stove area. A condo sustained water and minor smoke and fire damage while a second unit below suffered minor water damage.

A few safety tips from the Charleston Fire Department:

- 1) Never leave cooking unattended.
- 2) Never remove a burning pot or pan from the stove.
- 3) Maintain fire extinguishers in the home and understand their use and limitations.
- 4) Install and maintain smoke alarms in all homes. Every level of your home should have a working smoke alarm.
- 5) Every family should create and practice a home escape plan that includes a designated meeting place for all family members.
- 6) Once you have escaped a burning building never re-enter for any reason.



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